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The Jamestown Fiasco.

The managers of the Jamestown Exposition are not talking as loudly about the "enticing splendors of war" as they did before the Exposition opened. In the last [April] number of the *Jamestown Magazine* before the Exposition began, the proposed military and naval features were advertised in the same extravagant, childish and vulgar phraseology as in previous issues. Here are some of the extraordinary sentences:

"Would you see the choicest battleships, cruisers, torpedo boats, etc., of the nations of the world swinging at anchor or passing in review in battle array on the bosom of Hampton Roads in front of the Jamestown Exposition, from whence echoes from the 'Merrimac' and 'Monitor' were heard in every clime? Would you see this greatest of Armadas bedecked in its holiday attire in honor of the arrival of an Admiral Togo and listen to the reverberations of its thundering, earth-shaking welcome? Then come to the Jamestown Exposition. . . . Would you see the pick of the world's fighters on foot, in saddle and on caisson? Would you hear the hoof-beat of cavalry, the clash of sabre, the thundering of artillery rushing into action, the tramp, tramp, tramp of deploying thousands in support of the van, the shrieking of fifes and the rolling of drums, the fluttering of colors, the shrill notes of bugle calls, echoes of '76 and '61? Then come to the Jamestown Exposition. . . . Would you feel the thrill of battle on hallowed ground? Would you feel the presence of the greatest

living commanders of armies and navies? Would you feel the satisfaction of having seen the greatest naval, military and historical exhibition ever created? Then come to the Jamestown Exposition."

If the reports that come to us from Norfolk are to be believed, promise and fulfillment were never farther apart. The promised Big Show, the biggest that men ever set eyes on, has dwindled down to a very insignificant display, resembling a sideshow of a country fair, of which the Rhetoric of the *Jamestown Magazine* is probably thoroughly ashamed. The people have not been "enticed." There has been nothing to entice them, even if they were willing to be enticed. Even the United States government display is reported to be only of the dimensions of a single regiment. Many of the States have declined to send regiments of militia to participate in the show. The people have not gone in great numbers. They have, doubtless, been disgusted at the attempt to seduce the minds of the youth of the nation to uphold a barbarous and cruel system, of which sensible men in all countries are fast becoming ashamed. There has been less said about the Exposition in the papers, and less interest shown in it on the part of the public, than in any Exposition which we remember.

What has brought the "greatest military and naval exhibition ever created" down to its paltry actual dimensions? Possibly the promoters of the Exposition never meant what they said to be taken as anything but a bill-board advertisement. If that was the case — and we confess that the whole situation has suggested the thought — they have probably realized to their sorrow that the American people, however simple-minded and gullible they may be in some directions, have gotten a few stages beyond the silly savage state of childish delight in the "enticing splendors of war," in which the official organ of the Exposition assumed them still to be.

It is, at any rate, a matter of profound satisfaction that the huge, gaudy bubble has burst. Our country has thus been saved from a lasting shame, from a conspicuous, practical denial of itself, its history and its ideals. We regret, of course, that the Exposition could not have made the noble and instructive exhibition that it ought to have made of the extraordinary growth and prosperity, the intellectual, moral and political advancement of the nation in the three hundred years since the first settlement. But if that has been made impossible, as now seems certain, the insane attempt at the greatest military and

naval display so far seen is responsible for the failure. But it is better a hundred times that the Exposition should have proved the dismal failure that it threatens to be, than that it should have had a great success through the instrumentality of the flaming military and naval pageant projected for it, by which the old and fast-decaying war system of the past would have been given among us a status of honor and glory which it has never had in our national history.

The members of the Advisory Board, who raised the protest against the perversion of the Exposition to the purposes of militarism, are entitled to the sincerest gratitude of the nation. It was this protest, sent to a thousand newspapers and otherwise widely distributed, which aroused the people to the true character of the snare which was set for them. The response was most extraordinary. Preachers, teachers, distinguished religious and educational leaders, prominent men of affairs, great dailies and weeklies, even some of the army and navy organs, protested that they wanted no such spectacular folly enacted at the birthplace of the nation, whose chief glory has been its consecration to the development of the arts of peace. Such a spectacular performance would, they said, be entirely out of harmony with the historic traditions of the nation and its social and political ideals. But in spite of this emphatic expression of the general sentiment of the nation against a glorification of "bloody war" and its deadly instruments, the Jamestown Directors persisted in the course which they had entered upon, at the same time trying to explain away the real purpose of the military and naval display.

Their folly, we are glad to say, has recoiled on their own heads. The condemnation meted out to them has been severer than any one had expected. It has been of a type which they could not misunderstand. And herein lies the encouragement of the situation. This great nation, in spite of moments of aberration, is and always has been for peace and not for war; for the perpetuation and glorification of the arts of life and upbuilding, not those of destruction and ruin. They have refused in this case to be blinded by "the pomp and circumstance of war," by which it was sought to deprive them of their dollars and to turn their faces back toward the ignorant and inhuman past. The nation which has thus, in an hour of severe testing, impressively uttered what we believe to be its "everlasting no" to the impassioned blandishments of modern overgrown militarism, is uttering at The Hague, where our delegates are taking a strong lead, its "everlasting yes" to the new order of human society, which, in time, will make such displays as the Jamestown program called for as impossible, even in conception, as the Indian war dances and the ancient gladiatorial conflicts are to civilized man to-day.

Opening of the Hague Conference.

The second intergovernmental Peace Conference of the nations opened at The Hague on June 15, in the Knights' Hall of the Binnenhof Palace. Representatives of all the forty-six powers of the world were present. The opening, though most impressive, was very informal and democratic. Even the military and naval delegates wore civilian dress, the Netherlands government, in order to make prominent the peaceful purposes of the Conference, having specially requested that no uniforms or insignia of rank be worn. There were no military demonstrations. Only thirteen soldiers were on guard, five on horseback and eight on foot, and even these might as well have been kept away.

The Conference was called to order by Dr. Van Goudriaan, the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs, who welcomed the delegates in behalf of the Queen, and then introduced Mr. A. J. Nelidoff, Russian Ambassador to France, as president of the Conference. Dr. Van Goudriaan was made honorary president, and Dr. William H. de Beaufort, head of the Netherlands delegation, vice-president. Dr. de Beaufort was Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1899, and opened the first Hague Conference.

Mr. Nelidoff's opening address was what might have been expected. It followed the limited Russian program as published in advance. It was pessimistic in tone in regard to limitation of armaments and the ultimate abolition of war. But though he declared that the dream of universal peace would never be realized, and that there was a whole class of questions involving "the honor, dignity and essential interests" of the nations which they would never submit to any authority but themselves, yet he urged that ruptures and armed conflicts might be prevented by arbitration, that the horrors of war might be greatly mitigated, that the causes of conflict might be removed, and that the goal of universal peace might be gradually approached.

One of the best evidences of the optimistic spirit of progress that animated the Conference as a whole was the perceptible coolness with which the pessimistic parts of Mr. Nelidoff's speech were received. The delegates as a body were evidently in favor of something much more advanced.

The opening session lasted less than an hour. The public were admitted and the Hall of the Knights was full. The delegations were seated in French alphabetic order, beginning at the President's right, thus putting Germany (*Allemagne*) first, and the United States (*Amérique*) second. The French and British delegates were seated side by side in the hall. The large body of delegates from the South and Central American countries gave the Conference a very different aspect from that of 1899.